

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3794

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UNCLAS BUCHAREST 4358

STATE FOR CU/IAP AND CU/EE

USIA FOR ICS AND IEU

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, RO

SUBJECT: SWIMMING COACH FOR ROMANIA

REF: BUCHAREST 4240; BUCHAREST 3611

1. POST HAS JUST RECEIVED LETTER DATED JUNE 6 FROM NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT CONFIRMING THEIR WILLINGNESS TO HAVE AMERICAN SWIMMING COACH. FOR FIRST TIME DATES ARE SPECIFIED (JULY 4-AUGUST 4) AND ITINERARY LISTED: JULY 4-19 VICTORIA; JULY 19-28 BRAILA AND JULY 28-AUGUST 4 VICTORIA. NCPES WOULD PAY FOR HOUSING, MEALS, INTERNAL TRANSPORTATION AND PROVIDE SMALL LEI HONORARIU. COACH WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR EXPENSES OF ACCOMPANYING FAMILY MEMBERS. ALL WOULD BE EXEMPT FROM \$10 EXCHANGE.

2. LETTER STATES THAT COACH WOULD WORK DIRECTLY WITH ROMANIAN SWIMMING TEAM AND SHOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS WITH ROMANIAN COACHES: TRAINING PROCESSES; IMPROVED EFFICIENCY IN TRAINING METHODS; IMPROVEMENT OF SWIMMING TECHNIQUE AND "TRACING" OF SWIMMING TALENTSWT LETTER REQUIREMENT MAY REFER TO HOW TO SPOT TALENTED YOUNG SWIMMERS.

3. THEY WOULD PREFER TO HAVE ONE OF THE COACHES WHO TRAINED THE AMERICAN OLYMPIC TEAM IN MONTREAL AND SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED BY UNCLASSIFIED

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NAME GEORGE HEINNES (SIC). BELIEVE THEY MEAN GEORGE HAINES OF UCLA.

4. GIVEN AMOUNT OF EFFORT DEVOTED BY EMBASSY IN PAST TRYING TO DEVELOP THIS PROGRAM DESPITE THE SHORTAGE OF TIME IN FORMAL NOTIFICATION POST FEELS EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE EXPENDED IN OBTAINING FIRST-CLASS

COACH. SINCE ACIS HAD BEEN CONFIDENT THAT ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE WORKED OUT FOR VISIT THIS SUMMER ASSUME THEY WILL FULLY COOPERATE. POST RECOGNIZES HAINES AND OTHER OLYMPIC COACHES ARE PROBABLY UNAVAILABLE ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE BUT HOPES THAT WELL-KNOWN FIGURE WILL BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE. IF WELL QUALIFIED CANDIDATE IS FOUND BUT HAS PROBLEM WITH DATES PLEASE ADVISE IMMEDIATELY SO THAT WE CAN SEE ABOUT NECESSARY DATE SHIFT.

5. AS NOTED PREVIOUSLY WE REQUEST CU/IAP AND CU/EE ASSISTANCE IN BOTH ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL AREAS. POST HOPES THAT THIS WILL BE THE FIRST OF MODEST BUT EFFECTIVE EXCHANGE PROGRAM INVOLVING IN ATHLETIC COACHES AND TEAMS. FOLLOWING THIS PROGRAM U.S. TRACK COACH COULD COME NEXT SUMMER (NCPES ACCEPTS PROPOSAL AND MCNAMARA OF ACIS CONFIDENT COACH COULD BE FOUND) WHILE ROMANIANS MAY BE WILLING TO ALLOW FIRST-RATE HANDBALL COACH TO VISIT U.S. IN ANY EVENT IF PROGRAM IS TO DEVELOP WE HAVE TO MAKE GOOD ON FIRST TANGIBLE ASPECT, I.E. FINDING A SWIMMING COACH. VIETS

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